

Thursday, May 6

Status

- The first shoreline impacts were confirmed late Wednesday with oil on both sides of the southern half of the Chandeleur Islands on Breton National Wildlife Refuge. Overflight information indicated sheen and emulsified oil were observed around the islands.
- Pelicans were observed in sheen on the edge of the island. No oil was seen on the pelican nesting islands protected by booms. Some emulsified oil was up against the hard boom.
- Current trajectory models show the oil slick staying well south of the Mississippi/Alabama shoreline over the next three days.
- Shoreline impacts for Mississippi/Alabama coast do not seem likely before Saturday. Current trajectory models do not indicate any movement to the eastern Gulf.
- Several national wildlife refuges (Delta, Breton, Bayou Sauvage, Grand Bay, Mississippi Sandhill Crane, Bon Secour) remain in the area that potentially could be impacted.

The Response

- More than 160 Service personnel are involved in the oil spill response.
- Current efforts are ongoing in Louisiana, Mississippi, Alabama and the west coast of Florida.
- Service personnel in Wildlife Operations at the Houma Incident Command Center will conduct overflights of the Chandeleur Islands today to monitor the status of the brown pelican colonies. A Shoreline Cleanup Assessment Team will deploy to determine cleanup options.
- Service personnel from the Southeast Louisiana National Wildlife Refuges Complex will conduct a wildlife observation flight.
- Skimming operations will continue today.
- At Bon Secour National Wildlife Refuge, Service personnel successfully closed the Ivan Cut between Little Lagoon and the Gulf by building a temporary berm.